



Louisiana  
Department of Environmental Quality



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## Louisiana's Latest Toxics Release Inventory Report Shows Fewer Emissions

**T**he Louisiana 1998 Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) annual report shows a trend of declining emissions among the original facilities that have been reporting since TRI's inception in 1986. Since the original 1987 report, total emissions from reporting facilities are down by 76% and have decreased by 11% since the 1997 report.

The TRI report is a compilation of information submitted annually by manufacturing facilities to both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), enacted in 1986, requires facilities that meet certain guidelines to provide information about the amounts of 644 chemicals released or transferred each year.

Based on the 1998 data, 186 million pounds in total releases was reported for the state. Air releases represented approximately 40% of total releases (79 million pounds), water releases represented approximately 20% (37 million pounds), on-site land releases represented approximately 9% (16 million pounds), and underground injection accounted for approximately 29% (53 million pounds).

The data for 1998 includes 48 new facilities that reported emissions for the first time. The original industries targeted by EPA were in the manufacturing sector, Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes 20-39. EPA recognized that other industries outside of the manufacturing sector would provide additional chemical release information not currently being submitted. As a result, EPA expanded the TRI Program in 1997 to include seven industry sectors. These industry sectors are not new to environmental regulations since they are already being regulated by other programs. They are, however, considered new industries in the TRI reporting universe. The new sectors include coal and metal mining, electric utilities, commercial hazardous waste facilities, chemical distributors, petroleum bulk terminal stations, and solvent recovery systems. Louisiana received data from all of the new sectors with the exception of the coal and metal mining sectors. Total releases for the new industries that reported in Louisiana were approximately 19 million pounds and represented about 10% of all releases for the state.

According to DEQ Secretary Dale Givens, the reduction is primarily due to installation of more efficient air pollution controls and overall improvements in equipment operation at reporting facilities.

Total releases in the state are expected to decrease for reporting year 1999 as a result of the recent EPA delisting of phosphoric acid from the list of TRI chemicals. In Louisiana, phosphoric acid is the top chemical reported in the TRI Program for 1998 and accounts for approximately 29 million pounds (16%) of the state's total releases. Approximately 99% of all phosphoric acid reports come from the fertilizer industry in Louisiana. The delisting of phosphoric acid will significantly reduce the state's total releases. DEQ Secretary Dale Givens said, "Several popular carbonated beverages (soft drinks) contain phosphoric acid, and DEQ has long contended that this compound should be removed from the list of TRI chemicals."

The 1998 TRI report marks the eleventh annual edition published by DEQ. The 1998 report and those from previous years are available on DEQ's web site (<http://www.deq.state.la.us/evaluation/TRI/index.htm>). An interactive map of the latest TRI data can be found at ([http://gis.deq.state.la.us/projects/tri\\_welcome.html](http://gis.deq.state.la.us/projects/tri_welcome.html)). Printed copies of the 1998 report are available from DEQ's OEA/EED/TRI Section by calling (225) 765-0355 or toll-free at (888) 763-5424.